



SENATE DEM WOMEN PRAISE COLLEAGUES' SUPPORT OF MANDATORY CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION, Sep 12, 2006

LANSING - Senators Liz Brater; Deb Cherry; Irma Clark-Coleman; Gilda Jacobs; Martha Scott and Gretchen Whitmer joined their six female Senate Republican colleagues at today's introduction of legislation that will require all girls entering sixth grade to receive vaccinations which will protect against the cervical cancer virus.

Senate Bills 1416 and 1417, which were co-sponsored by all 12 women Senators, will require that a vaccine for the human papillomavirus (HPV) be added to Michigan public schools and academies' required immunization schedules for next year. The vaccine has proven 100 percent effective at preventing disease from the two HPV types responsible for 70 percent of all cervical cancers.

While the legislation follows recent FDA approval of the vaccine for girls and women between nine and 26, the Senate bills will include immunizations for girls aged 11 and 12. As with similar school-required vaccines, parents/guardians can exempt children from required vaccines for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons.

The bipartisan bills are expected to come before the Senate for a vote before the end of September.

While some 45 states have introduced similar legislation to address this issue, Michigan is the first state to require the vaccine for school entry.

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